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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

TWO HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIFTH REPORT OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PETITIONS, INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

Chairman: Mr. Renagi Renagi LOHIA (Papua New Guinea)

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I. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

A. Mandate of the Subcommittee and election of officers

1. At its 1377th meeting, on 21 February 1991, by adopting the suggestions put forward by the Chairman relating to the organization of the Committee's work (A/AC.109/L.1755), the Special Committee decided to maintain its Subcommittee on Petitions, Information and Assistance with the following members: Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Congo, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Mali, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and United Republic of Tanzania. At the same meeting, following a statement by the Chairman (see A/AC.109/PV.1377), the Special Committee unanimously elected Mr. Renagi Renagi Lohia (Papua New Guinea) as the Chairman of the Subcommittee.

2. By the same decision, the Special Committee decided to allocate the following items to the Subcommittee for consideration and recommendations:

(a) Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (General Assembly resolution 45/18);

(b) Dissemination of information on decolonization (General Assembly resolution 45/35);

(c) Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories, as well as Those in South Africa, Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights.

B. Programme of work

3. At its 481st meeting, on 11 April 1991, the Subcommittee considered its programme of work and approved the following programme for 1991:

(a) Consultation with the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat concerning the application of General Assembly resolution 45/35 of 20 November 1990 on the dissemination of information on decolonization;

(b) Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations;

(c) Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories, as well as Those in South Africa, Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights (20-24 May 1991);

(d) Consultations with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and other intergovernmental organizations regarding questions of information and assistance;

(e) Consultations with relevant non-governmental organizations on questions relating to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

(f) International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (art. 15);

(g) Examination of petitions;

(h) Rationalization of work.

C. Pattern of conferences

4. By approving the suggestions contained in the note by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1755), the Special Committee decided, at its 1377th meeting, on 21 February, to follow the procedure adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session to waive rules 67 and 108 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, in order to permit meetings to be declared open and debates to proceed without the presence of the quorum required under those rules.

5. To minimize the wastage in conference resources and to ensure full utilization of the time allotted, and also to avoid as far as possible the last minute cancellation of scheduled meetings, the Special Committee also requested the presiding officers of the Subcommittee to endeavour to schedule meetings only when there would be a sufficient number of speakers. Further, the Committee requested the presiding officers to continue the practice of holding extensive consultations and informal meetings whenever possible, with a view to reducing the number of formal meetings to a minimum.

6. The Special Committee decided that it should continue to take measures with a view to ensuring the maximum reduction in documentation requirements.

II. WEEK OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLES OF ALL COLONIAL TERRITORIES, AS WELL AS THOSE IN SOUTH AFRICA, FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM, INDEPENDENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS (20-24 MAY 1991)

7. In accordance with its programme of work for 1991, adopted at its 481st meeting, on 11 April 1991, the Subcommittee considered the item on the Week of Solidarity at its 486th meeting, on 23 May 1991.

Conclusions and recommendations

8. The Subcommittee approved the following programme of activities to be undertaken during and in the framework of the Week:

(a) A public screening of films produced in English, French and Spanish should be held;

(b) Articles in the Department of Public Information publications the UN Chronicle and Objective: Justice (1991 edition), should feature the activities of the Week;

(c) The Department of Public Information, in addition to short items in news and current affairs magazines, should produce special feature radio programmes on the Week;

(d) The United Nations information centres and information services worldwide should undertake activities which would reflect the current situation and expectations with regard to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(e) The statement of the Chairman of the Special Committee on the activities of the Week should be issued as a press release;

(f) Information packages containing United Nations publications on decolonization issues should be distributed to the media and the non-governmental organizations.

III. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

9. In accordance with its programme of work for 1991 (see A/AC.109/L.1755), adopted by the Special Committee at its 1377th meeting, on 21 February 1991, the Subcommittee considered the question of the "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations" at its 484th to 486th meetings, between 2 and 23 May 1991.

10. The Subcommittee held consultations with representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), who made statements at the Subcommittee's 485th and 486th meetings. A representative of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands also made a statement at the 484th meeting in connection with the item.

11. The Subcommittee expresses its appreciation to those specialized agencies that appeared before it for their cooperation and for their important contribution to its work.

12. An account of the information received by the Subcommittee during the consultations should be read in conjunction with the information contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the item (A/46/229). The account is reproduced in the annex to the present report.

13. At its 486th meeting, on 23 May 1991, the Subcommittee heard a petitioner, Mr. J. A. González-Gonzáles, a journalist based at United Nations Headquarters, who spoke of ways to improve the programmes by the specialized agencies and institutions associated with the United Nations to benefit the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Conclusions and recommendations

14. In view of the urgent need to increase and accelerate concrete assistance to the peoples in the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations, the Subcommittee submits the following conclusions and recommendations for adoption by the Special Committee:

(1) The Special Committee reiterates that it considers it to be of utmost importance that the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system, guided by the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, should continue and intensify their efforts to contribute, within their spheres of competence, to the full and speedy implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960.

(2) The Special Committee commends those specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system that have cooperated with the United Nations and various regional organizations in the implementation of the Declaration and the other relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, and urges those that have not already done so to include in the agenda of the regular meetings of their governing bodies a separate item on the progress they have made in the implementation of the Declaration and the other relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, particularly on the assistance provided to colonial peoples.

(3) The Special Committee considers that the assistance provided by the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories should not only meet their immediate needs but also create conditions conducive to development after these peoples have exercised their right to self-determination, taking into consideration the need to preserve indigenous cultures and traditions.

(4) The Special Committee urges the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system to assist in accelerating progress in all sectors of the national life of the small Territories, particularly in the development of their economies.

(5) The Special Committee emphasizes the importance of coordination at the country, regional and headquarters levels of the programmes of assistance provided by the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing

Territories. The Special Committee considers that such coordination would enable the peoples concerned to derive the maximum benefit from those programmes.

(6) The Special Committee reiterates its conviction that consultations with the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system are an appropriate means for further strengthening the role of those organizations in the process of decolonization with regard to the aims and objectives of the Declaration, as well as for the Special Committee to benefit from their experience in that process.

IV. QUESTION OF DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON DECOLONIZATION

A. Introduction

15. In accordance with its programme of work for 1991, adopted at its 481st meeting, on 11 April 1991, the Subcommittee considered the question of dissemination of information on decolonization at its 481st, 482nd and 488th meetings, between 11 April and 1 August 1991.

16. In its consideration of the item, the Subcommittee held consultations with representatives of the Department of Public Information and of the Department for Special Political Questions, Regional Cooperation, Decolonization and Trusteeship of the Secretariat.

17. At its 488th meeting, on 1 August 1991, the Subcommittee heard a petitioner, Mr. J. A. Gonzáles-Gonzáles, a journalist based at United Nations Headquarters, who spoke of his experience in the dissemination of information on decolonization by the Secretariat.

B. Consultations with representatives of the Department of Public Information

18. In their statements, the representatives of the Department of Public Information said that the Department publicized the various aspects of decolonization through all the media at its disposal. The focus of information activities had moved from Namibia after it gained independence on 21 March 1990, to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories.

19. During the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories, as well as Those in South Africa, Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights (22-26 May 1990), statements on newly independent Namibia pointed to the heightened need for a Secretary-General's Donor Pledging Conference for that country, which was held on 21 and 22 June 1990. During the Week, a brochure entitled Decolonization, which contains information on the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the work of the Special Committee on decolonization and the role of the United Nations in the decolonization

process, was widely distributed. Copies were distributed of a booklet, Namibia Outlook, and a poster focusing on Namibia's independence. A journalists' news mission held in Namibia in April/May 1990 provided information for Namibia in the News, a booklet containing observations of journalists on the socio-economic situation in Namibia after independence.

20. As part of its regular coverage of United Nations activities, the Department's News Coverage Service continued to report on the work of the United Nations bodies concerned with decolonization. The Department issued a total of 79 press releases in English and 79 in French on the work of the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly, the Subcommittee on Small Territories, the Subcommittee on Petitions, Information and Assistance and the Special Committee.

21. Press releases were also prepared covering the various seminars and symposia which dealt with decolonization issues. Specific topics covered in some of the press releases included a special plenary meeting in Namibia to decide on the disbanding of the United Nations Council for Namibia and the preparatory process for the implementation of the settlement proposals for resolving the question of Western Sahara. Statements on decolonization made by the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the Chairman of the Special Committee on decolonization were also issued as press releases.

22. The information contained in the press releases was used not only by the international media, but also by non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, Governments and various offices of the United Nations system. Within the Department, press releases were used for the preparation of the UN Chronicle, the Yearbook of the United Nations, other pamphlets and publications, daily briefings and radio news summaries. The United Nations information centres disseminated information on decolonization contained in the press releases to a world-wide audience. The Department also sent cables based on those releases to the Pool of Non-Aligned News Agencies.

23. During 1990, the UN Chronicle, a quarterly magazine published in the six official languages of the United Nations, carried news items relating to Namibia, Western Sahara, the Fourth Committee, the Trusteeship Council and the Special Committee. The magazine devoted approximately 21 pages to the question of Namibia and included a coverage of the elections, the role of the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) and the setting up of the Constituent Assembly. There were also articles and other coverage concerning post-independence problems and plans for economic development, the admission of Namibia to the United Nations and the dissolution of the United Nations Council for Namibia. The Development Forum published two articles on Namibia.

24. The UN Chronicle devoted four and a half pages to the question of Western Sahara, including discussions of General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. Four pages of the magazine covered the work of the Trusteeship Council, including its report on the plebiscite in Palau. Attention was also focused on the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement for the other three

entities of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, that is, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands and the Northern Mariana Islands. Two pages of the publication were devoted to the observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and other activities of the Special Committee.

25. During the period under review, the 1986 edition of the Yearbook of the United Nations was published, with four chapters devoted to trusteeship and decolonization.

26. The Department produced many feature programmes, both in official and non-official languages of the United Nations, devoted exclusively to the questions of Namibia and decolonization, in addition to short items in news and current affairs radio magazines.

27. The Department's Radio Service provided Headquarters with "live" sound coverage and commentary by a United Nations radio officer and a commentator from the Namibia Broadcasting Company (NBC) on the entire Namibian independence ceremonies. In addition, weekly current affairs radio programmes, including "World in Review", "UN Newsbrief" and "Bonjour L'Afrique", which are broadcast over the shortwave transmitters of some Member States, included excerpts from the ceremonies. The Department provided radio and television stations in various countries with in-depth programmes for broadcast on or about 21 March 1990, Namibia's independence day.

28. With regard to the remaining Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories, 34 radio news magazines worldwide featured programmes such as "Non-Self-Governing Territories and the continuing UN decolonization campaign"; "UN Special Committee on decolonization takes action on situations in New Caledonia, the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) and Puerto Rico"; "Special Committee on decolonization recommends call to Governments to end activities detrimental to colonial Territories"; and "Committee on decolonization debates the question of East Timor".

29. Other topics covered by the Department included: "The UN Decolonization Committee concludes its 1990 session recommending that the General Assembly reaffirm the right to self-determination of the people inhabiting the remaining Caribbean and Pacific small Territories"; and "Fourth Committee: Present situation of decolonization".

30. The activities of the Special Committee on decolonization were widely publicized through photographs. Also, a photo-essay on the independence of Namibia, accompanied by 20 slides, was disseminated to all of the United Nations information centres.

31. The Department's Audio Library made available 57 tapes and 29 cassettes to correspondents, United Nations radio producers and delegates. Additional tapes and cassettes were provided to users on the observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The Visual Library provided video archival material on

decolonization to two outside producers and one United Nations producer, and on Western Sahara to one outside producer.

32. The Department also continued to prepare and distribute television news packages to subscribers and syndicators worldwide on decolonization subjects as diverse as the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) and Puerto Rico. Also covered were the deliberations of the Fourth Committee, the work of the Special Committee against Apartheid and meetings of the Security Council on Western Sahara .

33. An 18-minute educational video about decolonization was produced in English, French and Spanish for the series "About the United Nations". The programme, for use in secondary school social studies and history courses, examines the role of the United Nations in promoting self-determination in Non-Self-Governing Territories.

34. The Department's Executive Media Service disseminated information, on request, on the subject of decolonization. Posters, pamphlets, press releases and documents, when available, were passed on to journalists. Special press briefings were arranged.

35. The United Nations information centres and information services continued their task of informing the public worldwide of the activities of the Organization, including those relating to decolonization. The United Nations information centres disseminated information provided by Headquarters to local media, non-governmental organizations, government agencies, educators and academic institutions on subjects such as Namibia, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and activities of the Fourth Committee, the Special Committee on decolonization and Western Sahara.

36. The public information activities of the information centres and information services included mounting exhibits; screening films; producing background materials; publishing newsletters and news bulletins; producing press kits; holding news briefings; translating and disseminating Headquarters materials such as background notes, press releases and documents; participating in seminars and lectures; and granting interviews.

37. Material relating to decolonization and the work of the Special Committee was disseminated to the approximately 1,100 non-governmental organizations associated with the Department, through the NGO Resource Centre.

38. A number of the weekly briefings for representatives of the non-governmental organizations addressed issues relating to decolonization. There was a screening of "Teaching about decolonization".

39. The Public Services Section, through its Public Inquiries Unit, responded to 549 requests for information on decolonization. The Department responded to public queries and requests for information by distributing, as handouts or through the mail, publications, pamphlets, booklets and brochures. In 1990, exhibits on display in the Public Lobby included an exhibit on decolonization.

C. Consultations with the representative of the Department for Special Political Questions, Regional Cooperation, Decolonization and Trusteeship

40. In his statement before the Subcommittee, the representative of the Department for Special Political Questions, Regional Cooperation, Decolonization and Trusteeship indicated that the dissemination of information on decolonization continued to be one of the key activities of the Department.

41. Two regional seminars had been organized in the Pacific and Caribbean regions where most of the Non-Self-Governing Territories were located. Several documents dealing with decolonization matters had been distributed in connection with the seminars. Articles had also been published in the regional press about the seminars.

42. The representative of the Department also told the Subcommittee that the participants had suggested that the United Nations increase the number of information centres in the Pacific and Caribbean regions, particularly in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

43. He also said, with regard to the statement made by the representative of the Department of Public Information, concerning publications dealing with decolonization matters, that the secretariat of the Special Committee had not only contributed to those publications but had also assisted in ensuring that the information published had been correct. The cooperation between his Department and the Department of Public Information included the production of audio-visual as well as printed material.

44. The representative of the Department also cited the cooperation between his Department and regional and non-governmental organizations in disseminating information on decolonization, and the participation of staff from his Division in conferences sponsored by students and other professional groups in the United States. Members of his Division had also given lectures in orientation courses organized by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) for new members of permanent missions.

D. Conclusions and recommendations

45. Having concluded its examination of the item, the Subcommittee submits the following conclusions and recommendations for consideration and approval by the Special Committee:

(1) The Special Committee reiterates the importance of effecting the widest possible dissemination of accurate information on decolonization to further the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960) and to mobilize world public opinion in support of the peoples of colonial Territories in their efforts to achieve self-determination, freedom and independence.

(2) The Special Committee reiterates the great importance it attaches to the work of the Department for Special Political Questions, Regional Cooperation, Decolonization and Trusteeship. The Committee urges the Department to continue to discharge its mandate, taking into account all the Territories under the consideration of the Committee.

(3) While noting the active participation of the Department of Public Information in the work of the Committee and its efforts to produce and disseminate information on decolonization, to monitor the responses received from the United Nations information centres and to report thereon, the Special Committee requests the Department:

(a) To continue to intensify, through all the means at its disposal, its work of publicity in the field of decolonization, basing its activities in this regard on the Charter; the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples; the Plan of Action for the Full Implementation of the Declaration, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 35/118 of 11 December 1980; the items on the agenda of the Special Committee; and all relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and of other organs of the United Nations active in the field of decolonization;

(b) To underline in all its activities that, despite major achievements in the process of decolonization, colonialism has not been completely eradicated and that the activities of the United Nations in this field should be given high priority until all of the goals of the Declaration have been achieved;

(c) To continue to disseminate information on all remaining colonial Territories under the consideration of the Special Committee, including information on military bases or facilities in any of those Territories;

(d) To disseminate more widely, particularly through parliamentary bodies, non-governmental organizations, mass media and universities, basic decolonization resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, including those adopted by the Special Committee, as well as other basic materials concerning decolonization and to distribute them, especially through United Nations information centres, in local languages when appropriate, in particular in those regions where there are still Non-Self-Governing Territories, and in countries that are administering Powers;

(e) To pursue its cooperation with the Pool of Non-Aligned News Agencies and to provide it on a regular basis with varied publicity material and information concerning United Nations activities in the field of decolonization;

(f) To continue to disseminate materials prepared by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries concerning decolonization;

(g) To adopt measures aimed at providing full coverage of all activities of relevant United Nations bodies in the field of decolonization in press releases in both English and French;

(h) To continue to provide information material on decolonization through, inter alia, exhibitions to be shown outside United Nations Headquarters, to all United Nations information centres and to increase assistance to them in all related activities;

(i) To produce new visual material on problems of decolonization in cooperation with the Special Committee;

(j) To utilize materials pertaining to the participation of specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in the decolonization process, and to distribute those materials, as appropriate, through the United Nations information centres.

(4) The Special Committee requests the Department of Public Information to provide it with feedback reports from the United Nations information centres regarding their dissemination of information on decolonization and, in particular, on the activities undertaken in 1991 in relation to the celebration of the Week of Solidarity with Peoples of all Colonial Territories, as well as Those in South Africa, Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights.

(5) The Special Committee requests the Department of Public Information to continue its efforts to ensure that information bodies provide better coverage of decolonization in all regions.

(6) The Special Committee requests the Department for Special Political Questions, Regional Cooperation, Decolonization and Trusteeship, in cooperation with the Department of Public Information, to increase its speaking engagements at university campuses across North America and, if requested, in other regions on the subject of decolonization and to inform the Subcommittee of the experience and the results achieved.

(7) The Special Committee requests the Department of Public Information and the Department for Special Political Questions, Regional Cooperation, Decolonization and Trusteeship to continue to take into consideration the important role being played by non-governmental organizations in the decolonization process and in the dissemination of information on the situation in all the remaining colonial Territories under consideration of the Committee. The Committee requests the two Departments to continue to intensify their cooperation with non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization, particularly through briefings and the provision of relevant printed materials.

(8) The Special Committee appeals to the mass media to regard it as their task to contribute to the elimination of the remaining manifestations of colonialism by disseminating information on the decolonization issues and to provide support to the peoples of the colonial countries.

(9) The Special Committee expresses the view that the mass media could provide broader coverage of events and activities relating to the

decolonization process through conferences, seminars and round tables, as well as the publication and wide distribution of pertinent resolutions and decisions of such bodies.

(10) The Special Committee should continue to consider new ways and means of increasing the effectiveness of the dissemination of information relating to decolonization.

V. RATIONALIZATION OF WORK

46. In accordance with its programme of work for 1991, adopted at its 481st meeting, on 11 April 1991, the Subcommittee considered the item on the rationalization of work at its 483rd and 487th meetings, on 18 April and 19 June 1991, respectively.

47. In connection with efforts to streamline the work of the Special Committee and its subsidiary bodies, at the 483rd meeting of the Subcommittee, held on 18 April 1991, the Chairman suggested the possibility of combining the Subcommittee with the Subcommittee on Small Territories. He stated that their merger would save time and money and would lead to more effective consideration of the issues with which the Subcommittee on Petitions, Information and Assistance dealt.

48. Two of the members generally supported that view. One member expressed doubts, however, saying that the merger could impair the consideration of the aspects of decolonization with which the subsidiary body was mandated. Another member stated that the Subcommittee had no mandate to give recommendations with regard to the agendas and work programmes of other bodies.

49. At the Subcommittee's 487th meeting, on 19 June 1991, the Chairman stated that in accordance with a decision taken by the Special Committee at its 1380th meeting, on 24 May, the merger of the Subcommittee on Small Territories and the Subcommittee on Petitions, Information and Assistance would become effective on 1 January 1992. That reform did not mean that there was no longer a need to keep the international community and public opinion abreast of the progress achieved in the field of decolonization; nor did it mean that the necessity for hearing petitioners or assisting the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories had been phased out. Far from it. In taking that decision, the Special Committee had been guided solely by its recognition of the need to revise its method of work to achieve more effectiveness. The Chairman further said that his delegation was among those that had initiated the change, on the understanding that it would not derogate from any of the items on the agenda of either Subcommittee, but rather would enable a better picture of the situation in a given Territory to emerge.

50. The Subcommittee on Petitions, Information and Assistance had been established in the mid-1970s at the peak of the decolonization process when it became clear that the mobilization of international public opinion in favour of the United Nations action in the field of decolonization needed to be

intensified, the Chairman continued. For a period of almost two decades, the Subcommittee had been instrumental not only in facilitating contacts between the Special Committee and the liberation movements but also - and more importantly - in arousing world opinion and support in favour of the decolonization process. The Chairman paid particular tribute to all its members over the years and reiterated his sincere belief that the merger of the two Subcommittees would only have positive consequences for the Committee as a whole.

51. The Chairman also spoke on other decisions taken by the Special Committee at its 1380th meeting, on 24 May, which involved the consolidation of all resolutions on the Territories considered by the Subcommittee on Small Territories; a new approach to references to apartheid and the practice of name-calling; as well as an impetus for renewed cooperation between the administering Powers and the Committee.

52. He reiterated that the history of the Special Committee had shown that the Committee's review of its method of work had been a continuing process. The review conducted this year resulted in major steps being taken by the Committee to reflect the current international context and to take into account the stage reached in the decolonization process. Those steps in his view deserved praise.

53. Because of the serious efforts made by the Special Committee to streamline its work without compromising its commitment to decolonization, the critical comments made in the Committee for Programme and Coordination by some administering Powers during the consideration of the 1992/93 programme budget for trusteeship and decolonization activities were particularly vexing, the Chairman said. It was important at that juncture that the members of the Committee take the necessary measures to support the Committee's programmes in the reviewing administrative and financial bodies so as to avoid any amputation based on the above comments.

54. The other subject of concern, in view of the Chairman, was the suggested merger of the Fourth Committee and the Special Political Committee. He reminded members that the General Assembly by its resolution 43/47 of 22 November 1988 had declared the period 1990-2000 as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and set the year 2000 as target date for complete decolonization. If that objective could be reached earlier, such a development would certainly be appreciated and applauded. He would welcome the proposed merger of the Fourth Committee and the Special Political Committee if it could contribute to an acceleration of the decolonization process. But, should there be the slightest hint that the suggested reform might pave the way for a premature elimination of the trusteeship and decolonization programme, he believed that the Special Committee should unequivocally voice its serious concern.

VI. EXAMINATION OF PETITIONS

55. In accordance with its programme of work for 1991, adopted at its 481st meeting, on 11 April 1991, the Subcommittee examined petitions contained in communications Nos. 2299 to 2302 at its 483rd and 484th meetings, communication No. 2303 at its 486th meeting, and communication No. 2304 at its 488th meeting, held between 18 April and 1 August 1991. The Subcommittee agreed to recommend to the Special Committee that the requests contained in those petitions be granted.

56. At its 486th meeting, on 23 May 1991, in connection with the item on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, the Subcommittee heard a petitioner, Mr. Gonzáles-Gonzáles, a journalist based at United Nations Headquarters, who spoke of ways to improve the programmes by the specialized agencies and institutions associated with the United Nations to benefit the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories (see para. 13).

57. At its 488th meeting, on 1 August 1991, the Subcommittee also heard Mr. Gonzáles-Gonzáles in connection with the item on the dissemination of information on decolonization (see para. 17).

58. In order to facilitate the work of the Subcommittee and in accordance with a decision taken by the Special Committee at its 1377th meeting, on 21 February 1991, on the allocation of agenda items, the Chairman, with the concurrence of the members, suggested that the Subcommittee on Small Territories hear the petitioners on the question of the United States Virgin Islands (communication No. 2300), on the question of Guam (communication No. 2303), and on the question of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (communication No. 2305).

VII. CONSULTATIONS WITH THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY AND OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS REGARDING QUESTIONS OF INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE AND WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS ON QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

59. The Subcommittee deferred consideration of the above items pending further review of its work.

VIII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

60. The Subcommittee adopted the present report at its 488th meeting, on 1 August 1991.

Annex

CONSULTATIONS WITH THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

A. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

1. At its 486th meeting, on 23 May 1991, the Subcommittee met with a representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) who stated that within the terms of its humanitarian and non-political mandate, UNHCR had maintained its protection of and material assistance to refugees from South Africa and Namibia. Where appropriate, the respective national liberation movements acted as the principal implementing partners. UNHCR had been responsible for organizing the repatriation of some 43,400 Namibian refugees and exiles between June 1989 and June 1990. An additional 2,266 Namibian refugee students from Zambia were repatriated in December 1990 and January 1991.

2. With the successful conclusion of the Namibian repatriation exercise, the conflicts in Angola and Mozambique constituted the major causes of the refugee situation in southern Africa.

3. While UNHCR has no mandate to tackle the roots of these conflicts, the Office did have a clear mandate to protect and assist the victims of persecution who had sought asylum in neighbouring African States.

4. The principal objectives of UNHCR in the discharge of its humanitarian mandate in Southern Africa continue to be as follows:

(a) Protection:

(i) To help protect the integrity of the institution of asylum, i.e. the sum total of protection provided by a State to refugees in its territory;

(ii) To ensure that the fundamental principle of non-refoulement was fully respected;

(iii) To help alleviate some of the security problems encountered by the front-line States as a result of refugee influxes, through evacuation or resettlement of the refugees to other countries, mainly in Africa.

(b) Material assistance towards durable solutions:

(i) To provide increased material assistance to host countries to alleviate the burden created by the hospitality they afford to refugees and also to extend humanitarian assistance to national liberation movements recognized by the United Nations and OAU;

(ii) To enhance the emergency preparedness capacity of the front-line States to enable them to respond adequately and effectively to sudden and large-scale refugee influxes;

(iii) To provide youth with basic education and vocational skills needed to make them more productive and self-reliant while they remain in exile, and to prepare them for future leadership roles in their countries of origin;

(iv) To promote voluntary repatriation whenever feasible and to assist countries of origin in establishing the infrastructure needed for reintegrating returnees;

(v) Where voluntary repatriation cannot be realized in the foreseeable future and where opportunities for integration in the countries of asylum are limited, to promote resettlement, preferably within Africa.

Repatriation to Namibia

5. Between June 1989 and June 1990, a total of 43,387 Namibians were repatriated in discharge of the responsibilities assigned to UNHCR in Security Council resolution 435 (1978) of 29 September 1978. Of this number, 35,553 returned from Angola, 3,841 from Zambia and 3,993 from 40 other countries. Despite a number of delays and difficulties outside the control of UNHCR, the operation was a success and was an important factor in Namibia's transition to independence.

6. In December 1990 and January 1991, UNHCR assisted in the repatriation of 2,266 Namibian refugee children and their teachers who had remained in Zambia to complete the school year.

Assistance to South African refugees

7. Some 30,000 South African refugees had found asylum in southern Africa of whom over half received UNHCR assistance, ranging from care and maintenance activities to local settlement agricultural schemes. South African refugees were to be found in Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Agricultural self-sufficiency schemes were provided in Angola, Botswana, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia, and vocational training schemes in Lesotho and Zimbabwe. Assistance was also provided for the education of refugee children as well as for vocational training and employment (work permits, small-scale business loans etc.) for adult refugees. Limited care and maintenance of individuals and families, especially in the urban context, was provided, within the overall guidelines of UNHCR's assistance policies.

8. The implications of developments that have recently taken place in South Africa were kept constantly under review with particular emphasis on the possibilities of facilitating the voluntary repatriation of South African refugees.

Cooperation with national liberation movements recognized by OAU

9. Cooperation between UNHCR and the national liberation movements recognized by the OAU continued to be cordial. Guidance and technical assistance in project formulation and monitoring continued to be provided by UNHCR field offices in the countries implementing assistance programmes. With regard to the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) and the Namibia repatriation exercise, UNHCR discharged its traditional mandate within the overall terms and requirements of the repatriation operation discussed earlier.

Education

10. The provision of adequate primary and secondary education and vocational training remained a vital component of the UNHCR assistance programme for South African refugees as well as for some Namibians. During 1990, educational assistance was provided at the lower secondary level to some 200 South African refugees. In addition, UNHCR is continuing to assist some 115 Namibian students in various countries (mainly West African) to allow them to complete the programmes in which they were enrolled at the time of Namibia's independence.

B. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

11. At its 485th meeting, on 10 May 1991, the Subcommittee met with a representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) who stated that during the period March 1990 to March 1991 assistance had been provided directly to the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC), an African national liberation movement recognized by the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

12. Technical assistance had been provided to PAC through "Assistance to PAC in Food Production at Masiguri-Kitonga in Tanzania", a project aimed at preparing PAC followers to be able to produce food when they were repatriated to South Africa in the future.

13. FAO was also executing a total of four technical assistance projects in the South Pacific, involving Non-Self-Governing Territories such as Tokelau and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

14. With regard to small island Territories in the Caribbean, FAO had participated in a joint mission with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to Anguilla, British Virgin Islands and Montserrat to assess their agricultural sectors and identify priority projects which those Governments would like FAO to execute.

15. FAO was implementing two technical assistance projects funded by UNDP in Montserrat in the fields of forestry development and rehabilitation of the agricultural sector.

16. When funding became available, Anguilla, together with Montserrat and the British Virgin Islands, would benefit from a regional project on "Eradication of the Tropical Bont Tick from the Caribbean" in which the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) would also be involved.

17. Concerning Turks and Caicos Islands, FAO had been invited by UNDP to provide the services of an agricultural consultant for the project "Integrated Development Planning" pending the availability of funds.

C. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

18. At its 486th meeting, on 23 May 1991, the Subcommittee met with a representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) who noted with particular interest that the focus of the Subcommittee had shifted to problems confronting the small island Territories in the Caribbean and the Pacific.

19. UNESCO would have been more actively involved in assisting Non-Self-Governing Territories in matters relating to education, science and culture had it been invited to do so by the Administering Powers, in particular the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Despite General Assembly resolution 45/27 of 20 November 1990 requesting the United Kingdom to facilitate the readmission of Montserrat as an associate member of UNESCO, the United Kingdom had not initiated any action.

20. Notwithstanding the constraints on its direct involvement with the Non-Self-Governing Territories, UNESCO contributed significantly to the Pacific and Caribbean regions through support for training programmes in educational planning and administration; support to sustainable development in small States; regional projects for the training of teachers, Pacific and the Caribbean regional seminars and meetings; and technical and financial support for regional networks on functional illiteracy. To facilitate the full participation of small countries in the multilateral cooperation process, UNESCO intends to set up a directorate for small countries. The new structure is expected to encourage access of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories to the UNESCO assistance programmes. The UNESCO representative believed that special attention should be paid to the Territories that were often devastated by tornadoes and cyclones.

21. Pursuant to the General Assembly resolution 45/18 of 20 November 1990 on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to the Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, UNESCO had been intensifying its efforts towards the eradication of apartheid and through assistance to its victims through the activities of the special project called "Contribution to the Elimination of Apartheid Towards an Apartheid Free World" as well as through assistance to liberation movements recognized by OAU.

22. UNESCO would be a coordinator with the United Nations Centre against Apartheid of a conference on the educational needs of the victims of apartheid to be held at UNESCO headquarters in June 1991 as well as of a number of workshops to be held in Switzerland and Africa.

23. A special issue of the UNESCO publication the Courier concerning the struggle to end apartheid and racism was being prepared for November 1991.

24. A seminar had been organized with the participation of consultants recruited by the Organization to restructure the educational centres of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) in the United Republic of Tanzania that were faced with the arrival of young South African students. Pedagogical and educational materials amounting to $19,000 had been given to ANC and PAC.

25. In the cycle 1992-1996, seven educational projects financed by UNDP would be executed by UNESCO. Germany had agreed to finance a project to improve the training of ANC teachers and UNESCO hoped that by December 1992 there would be 40 teachers ready to teach.